

Serial No.: 10/550,735
Atty. Docket No.: P70823US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend and add the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An adhesive patch for covering a portion of the anatomical surface of a living being, said patch being able to adhere to the skin, and/or a wound on a part of the body, said patch comprising a backing layer and a layer of a skin-friendly adhesive for adhering to the skin, and the patch further comprising a ~~first~~ central first area ~~of a relatively high thickness defined by an outer border~~, a second area surrounding the first area and separated therefrom by said first area outer border, and a third ~~edge~~ area surrounding the second area, said third area bounded by a rim of said patch and an inner border to define a substantially annular area therebetween, said third area covered by has a pattern of curvilinear indentations, ~~wherein the indentations are in the form of a pattern of curvilinear indentations.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The patch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first area is provided with a pattern of indentations.

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3. (Currently Amended) A The patch as claimed in claim ~~±~~ 2 wherein the pattern of indentations in the first area ~~comprises~~ includes radial indentations.

4. (Currently Amended) A The patch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first area ~~comprises~~ includes a central hole and a set of indentations encircling the central ~~part~~ hole.

5. (Currently Amended) A The patch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the indentations in the third area are in the form of two or more series of curvilinear indentations intersecting with and crossing each other.

6. (Currently Amended) A The patch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the indentations are in the form of grooves having a level bottom.

7. (Currently Amended) A The patch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the curvilinear indentations are defined by a mathematical function of second or higher order or a hyperbolic function.

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8. (Currently Amended) A The patch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the third area is provided with radial zones having a thickness comparable with ~~the~~ a thickness of the material in the bottom of the indentations in the third area.

9. (Currently Amended) An ostomy appliance comprising an adhesive patch ~~as claimed in claim 1, said patch being able to adhere to the skin, said patch comprising~~ including a backing layer and a layer of a skin-friendly adhesive for adhering to the skin, ~~and said patch having a pattern of indentations wherein the patch comprises a first central first area of a relatively high thickness and that includes a hole and is defined by an outer border, a second area surrounding the first area for attaching a collecting bag or a coupling device, and a third edge area surrounding the second area and bounded by a rim of said patch and an inner border, wherein said second area defined by said first area outer border and said third area inner border and having a substantially uniform thickness without indentations, the first and third areas are being provided with indentations, said and wherein the indentations in the third area are indentations being~~ in the form of a pattern of curvilinear indentations.

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10. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing comprising an adhesive patch ~~as claimed in claim 1, said patch being able to adhere to the skin, said patch comprising~~ having a backing layer and a layer of a skin-friendly adhesive for adhering to the skin, and said patch having a ~~pattern of indentations wherein the patch comprises a first central area of a relatively high thickness, optionally a second area surrounding the first area, and a third and an edge area surrounding the first or second central area and extending to a rim of said dressing, wherein the first and third areas are~~ said central and edge areas being respectively provided with indentations having different patterns, with ~~and wherein~~ the indentations in the ~~third~~ edge area ~~are being~~ in the form of a pattern of curvilinear indentations that extends to said rim.

11. (New) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 10 further comprising an intermediate area between said central and edge areas, said intermediate area having a substantially uniform thickness without indentations.

12. (New) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 10 wherein said indentations have a depth of at least two-thirds of a total thickness of said dressing.

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13. (New) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 10 wherein the pattern of indentations in the central area includes radial indentations that intersect with a set of indentations that encircle a central point of the dressing to form a cross-hatched pattern.

14. (New) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 13 wherein the indentations in the edge area are in the form of two or more series of curvilinear indentations intersecting with and crossing each other.

15. (New) The patch as claimed in claim 2 wherein the pattern of indentations in the first area includes radial indentations that intersect with a set of indentations that encircle a central point of the patch to form a cross-hatched pattern.

16. (New) The patch as claimed in claim 1 wherein said pattern of curvilinear indentations in said third area is a cross-hatched pattern.

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17. (New) The patch as claimed in claim 16 wherein said curvilinear indentations in said cross-hatched pattern form angles with the patch rim that are other than 90° and 180°.

18. (New) The patch as claimed in claim 17 wherein said curvilinear indentations in said cross-hatched pattern extend to the patch rim.

19. (New) The adhesive patch as claimed in claim 9 wherein the first area includes a central hole and a set of substantially concentric indentations encircling the central hole.

20. (New) The adhesive patch as claimed in claim 19 wherein the first area further includes a radial indentations that intersect with and cross said concentric indentations.